

**Weissman Center for Leadership
20th Anniversary
Chapin Auditorium
November 7, 2019
Alumnae Panel Biographies**



Naomi M. Barry-Pérez '96 currently serves as the director of civil rights for the U.S. Department of Labor. In this role she has been responsible for administering the Department of Labor's Internal Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) programs and ensuring Equal Opportunity (EO) in the Department's financially assisted and conducted programs. Ms. Barry-Pérez has also been responsible for coordinating efforts that pertain to persons with limited English proficiency (LEP) and migrant/seasonal farmworkers. Pursuant to Executive Order 13166, Barry-Pérez spearheaded development of the Department of Labor's Policy Guidance to federal financial assistance recipients regarding the prohibition against national origin discrimination affecting LEP individuals. She also created the Department's plan for improving the accessibility of federally conducted programs for LEP persons.

Barry-Pérez holds a bachelor's degree in politics (cum laude) from Mount Holyoke College and a master's degree in public administration from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University. In addition, she held a Public Interest Law Fellowship at the Georgetown University Law Center where she received a Juris Doctor Degree. Ms. Barry-Pérez is the recipient of numerous National awards, including the inaugural Federal Employee Leadership Award given by the National Farmworker Conference, a National Hispanic Scholarship, a Harry S Truman Scholarship for Public Service, and a Woodrow Wilson Fellowship for Public Policy. Ms. Barry-Pérez was awarded the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute in 2013.



Sarita Gupta '96 is the Director of the Future of Work(ers) program at the Ford Foundation. She is the co-founder of Caring Across Generations and has served as the Executive Director of Jobs With Justice.

As a key leader and strategist in the progressive, labor, economic justice, women's and caregiving movements, Sarita has appeared on MSNBC, Al Jazeera America, PBS, CNBC and Fox News, has been featured in The Wall Street Journal, Bloomberg, and Politico, and has been published in The Huffington Post, The Hill and BillMoyers.com, and regularly speaks at conferences, panels, and events, including the White House Conference on Aging, the White House Summit on Worker Voice, and the United State of Women Summit.

Sarita began her career in the student movement while she was studying at Mount Holyoke College (1992-1996). After graduation, she was elected president of the United States Student

Association (1996-1998), representing students on Capitol Hill, at the Department of Education, and the White House. She deepened her role as a community activist and grassroots organizer while holding several leadership positions at Chicago Jobs With Justice, and then with the national Jobs With Justice organization, where she was named executive director in 2007.

Sarita serves on the boards of directors for several organizations, including the International Labor Rights Forum, Restaurant Opportunities Center United, the Domestic Workers Legacy Fund, Institute for Policy Studies, General Service Foundation, The Workers Lab, and the Labor Network for Sustainability. She is a Hunt Alternatives Fund Prime Movers Fellow, as well as a graduate of the Rockwood Leadership Training Program. Among the awards Sarita has received are the National Women's Law Center Annual Leadership Award, the Francis Perkins Open Door Award, Mount Holyoke College Alumnae Achievement Award, and Corporate Ethics International's BENNY Award.



Maria Z. Mossaides '73 currently serves as the child advocate for Massachusetts. In her four-decade career, Mossaides has held a wide range of positions in both the public and independent sectors as both an attorney and administrator, including her appointment as the first woman to serve as executive director for Massachusetts's highest court. She holds a B.A. from Mount Holyoke College, J.D. from SUNY at Buffalo and an M.P.A.

from Harvard University Kennedy School of Government. She was recognized as a Top Woman of Law in Massachusetts for 2010 and received an Alumnae Medal of Honor from Mount Holyoke College in 2018 and a Loyalty Award in 2008. Mossaides also teaches public law and nonprofit governance in the graduate management program at Suffolk University.